

Appl. No. 09/626,366
Docket No.: D4857-00006
Reply to Office Action of October 18, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:
 - (A) gathering patient care data by applying a risk assessment tool comprising a rating scale to objectively characterize a subjective condition of a patient's skin and wound thereby and diagnosing a malady;
 - (B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means as a data record;
 - (C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway to follow in treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means ;
 - (D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording each clinical action taken by a clinician as a data record in said data storage means wherein said clinical action includes implementing a skin and wound care regimen comprising selection and application of dressings to a wound;
 - (E) monitoring and comparing said recorded clinical actions taken by said clinician, at the time of performance of said clinical action, to said

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identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

(F) issuing an alert notice to said clinician at the time of performance of said clinical action identified as a variance from said identified appropriate clinical pathway so as to allow said clinician to alter said clinical action.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 [[2]] wherein said rating scale identifies factors most closely associated with the formation of a selected malady.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said factors are associated with parameters that are identified and assessed by said clinician, and a rating number assigned to each of said parameters that corresponds to said clinician's objective assessment of a wound/skin condition.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein a finite numerical score is selected from a preselected range and assigned to each of said parameters.

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6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein a numerical score at or above a preselected value is indicative of a high risk for development of said malady.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein said parameters, along with their assigned scores, are stored at a known, searchable, and retrievable location in said data storage means.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said monitoring includes reviewing each of said parameters, and identifying a most likely course of intervention to be followed by said clinician.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:

(A) gathering patient care data from a patient at bedside by applying a risk assessment tool comprising a skin and wound rating scale including a decision guide that provides a plurality of descriptors for use in objectively characterizing the subjective condition of a patient's skin and wound thereby and diagnosing a malady;

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(B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means of a general purpose computer as a data record;

(C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway to follow in treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means;

(D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording each clinical action taken by a clinician as a data record in said data storage means wherein said clinical action includes implementing a skin and wound care regimen comprising selection and application of dressings to a wound;

(E) monitoring and comparing said recorded clinical actions taken by said clinician, at the time of performance of said clinical action, to said identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

(F) issuing an alert notice to said clinician of an identified variation from said identified clinical pathway at the time of performance of said clinical action identified as a variance so as to allow said clinician to alter said clinical action.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said gathering of said patient care data includes observing and recording a patient's vital signs as a data record.

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11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said recorded vital signs are each compared to a preselected value for said vital sign and monitored for deviations that are indicative of a high risk for development of a skin malady.
12. Cancelled
13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein said skin and wound care regimen are monitored for deviations that are indicative of a high risk for deterioration of said skin and wound.
14. Cancelled
15. (Currently Amended) A method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:
- (A) gathering patient care data according to a predetermined regimen for diagnosing a malady of the skin by applying a risk assessment tool comprising a skin rating scale including a decision guide that provides a plurality of descriptors for use in objectively characterizing the subjective condition of a patient's skin;

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(B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means of a general purpose computer;

(C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway from a plurality of pathways for treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means as a data record;

(D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording each clinical action taken by a clinician as a data record in said data storage means wherein said clinical action includes implementing a skin and wound care regimen comprising selection and application of dressings to a wound;

(E) monitoring and comparing said recorded clinical actions taken by said clinician, at the time of performance of said clinical action, to said identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

(F) issuing an alert notice to said clinician of an identified variation from said identified clinical pathway at the time of performance of said clinical action identified as a variance so as to allow said clinician to alter said clinical action.

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16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 wherein said regimen comprises answering a questionnaire that quantifies a patient's satisfaction with his/her health status.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:

(A) gathering patient care data by applying a Braden Scale risk assessment tool to a patient to objectively characterize the subjective condition of said patient's wound thereby and diagnosing a malady;

(B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means as a data record;

(C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway to follow in treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means;

(D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording each clinical action taken by a clinician as a data record in said data storage means wherein said clinical action includes implementing a skin and wound care regimen comprising selection and application of dressings to a wound;

(E) monitoring and comparing said recorded clinical actions taken by said clinician, at the time of performance of said clinical action, to said

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identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

(F) issuing an alert notice directly to said clinician at the time of performance of said clinical action identified as a variance from said identified appropriate clinical pathway so as to allow said clinician to alter said clinical action.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:

(A) gathering patient care data by applying a risk assessment tool to an affected region of a patient's body comprising a skin and wound rating scale to objectively characterize the subjective condition of said affected region thereby and diagnosing a malady;

(B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means as a data record;

(C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway to follow in treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means;

(D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording one or more clinical actions taken by a clinician as a data record in said data storage means wherein said one or more clinical actions include implementing a

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skin and wound care regimen at the time of diagnosis of said malady, said skin and wound care regimen comprising selection and application of dressings to a wound;

(E) monitoring and comparing said recorded clinical actions taken by said clinician, at the time of performance of said clinical actions, to said identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

(F) issuing an alert notice directly to said clinician at the time of performance of said clinical action identified as a variance from said identified appropriate clinical pathway so as to allow said clinician to alter said selection and application of dressings to said wound at the time of implementation.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for assessing deviations from a preselected medical treatment that has been indicated by appropriate diagnosis from a clinician, comprising the steps of:

(A) gathering patient care data by applying a Braden Scale risk assessment tool to a patient comprising a skin and wound rating scale including a decision guide that provides a plurality of descriptors and a numeric rating for use in objectively characterizing the subjective condition of said patient's skin and wound thereby and diagnosing a malady at bedside;

(B) storing said patient care data and said diagnosis of said malady in a data storage means as a data record;

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(C) identifying an appropriate clinical pathway to follow in treating said diagnosed malady from a plurality of clinical pathways stored in said data storage means;

(D) implementing said identified clinical pathway and recording the selection and application of dressings to a wound as a data record in said data storage means;

(E) monitoring and comparing said recorded selection and application of dressings taken by said clinician, at the time of performance, to said identified clinical pathway so as to identify one or more variations from said identified clinical pathway; and

(F) issuing an alert notice to said clinician at the time of performance of said selection and application of dressings identified as a variance from said identified appropriate clinical pathway so as to allow said clinician to alter said selection and application of dressings at the time of performance.